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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/544,423	04/06/2000	Daniel Joseph Ondrus	200-0500	7482

7590

12/10/2001

John G Chupa
Chupa & Alberti P C
31313 Northwestern Highway
Suite 205
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

EXAMINER

KOCH, GEORGE R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1734

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8rr →

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/544,423

Applicant(s)

ONDRUS, DANIEL JOSEPH

Examiner

George R Koch III

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claim 5 provides that said plurality of joints are used to form a vehicle, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. It is unclear whether applicant intends to claim a method to form a vehicle, or whether applicant intends to claim bonding vehicle parts. For the purposes of examination, it has been taken that the applicant intends to bond vehicle parts.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application

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by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

5. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,759,489 to Pigott.

Pigott discloses an assembly line method (see column 3, lines 3-34) wherein a variety of joints are made by use of adhesive (see Fig. 4 and column 4, lines 53-64, see Fig. 17 and column 5, lines 1-10, and Fig. 19, columns 22-33). Pigott also discloses that the joints would be of use in vehicles such as automobile bodies (Abstract, line 1). An assembly line method by definition includes performing the same task in a substantially identical manner on multiple items on the assembly line.

6. Claims 1, 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,849,122 to Kenmochi.

Kenmochi discloses an assembly line method for making vehicle components wherein the joints are made substantially identical manner. From Figures 2 and 3 the exemplary joint is clearly a lap joint. As stated before, an assembly line method by definition includes performing the same task in a substantially identical manner on multiple items on the assembly line.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

9. Claims 2-4, 6-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 4,759,489 to Pigott as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US 5,362,120 to Cornille.

Pigott does not disclose the specific bonds claimed, nor does Pigott disclose the percentage of the areas that are covered with adhesive.

Cornille discloses lap joints (Fig. 3), one half coach joints (Fig. 6) and coach joints (Fig. 5). These joints are also to be used in vehicle bodies (abstract, line 1). One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the variety of joints presented would allow for a variety of attachment positions necessary for manufacturing the vehicles. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have incorporated the suggested joint of Cornille in the assembly line joint method of Pigott in order to join members and achieve the necessary shapes for manufacturing vehicles.

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Furthermore, with respect to the various adhesive coverage areas recited and claim, it is known that bond strength increases with adhesive coverage area, but that the risk of seepage also increases with adhesive coverage area. One of ordinary skill in the art would know to conduct routine experimentation in order to find the best coverage area for creating the strongest bond without the risk of adhesive seepage that can damage the end product. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have conduct routine experimentation to achieve the coverage areas claimed in order to balance the twin demands of bond strength and reduced seepage.

10. Claims 3-4, 6-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,849,122 to Kenmochi as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US 5,362,120 to Cornille.

Pigott does not disclose the specific bonds claimed, nor does Pigott disclose the percentage of the areas that are covered with adhesive.

Cornille discloses one half coach joints (Fig. 6) and coach joints (Fig. 5). These joints are also to be used in vehicle bodies (abstract, line 1). One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the variety of joints presented would allow for a variety of attachment positions necessary for manufacturing the vehicles. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have incorporated the suggested joint of Cornille in the assembly line joint method of

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Kenmochi in order to join members and achieve the necessary shapes for manufacturing vehicles.

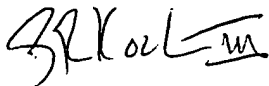
Furthermore, with respect to the various adhesive coverage areas recited and claim, it is known that bond strength increases with adhesive coverage area, but that the risk of seepage also increases with adhesive coverage area. One of ordinary skill in the art would know to conduct routine experimentation in order to find the best coverage area for creating the strongest bond without the risk of adhesive seepage that can damage the end product. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have conduct routine experimentation to achieve the coverage areas claimed in order to balance the twin demands of bond strength and reduced seepage.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George R. Koch III whose telephone number is (703) 305-3405. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 10-7.

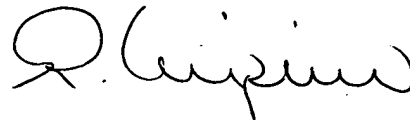
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (703) 308-3853. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7718 for regular communications and (703) 305-3599 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



George R. Koch III
December 3, 2001



RICHARD CRISPINO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1706